

REMARKS

A review of the claims indicates that:

A) Claims 9, 18 and 22—25 are previously presented.

B) Claims 1—7, 17 and 26—40 were previously withdrawn under a prior restriction.

C) Claims 10—14, 16 and 19—21 are currently withdrawn under the current restriction

D) Claim 15 is cancelled.

E) Claim 8 is currently amended.

In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all aspects of the Office Action mailed 12/17/2007 have been addressed.

Restriction/Election

The Applicant was asked to elect between methods associated with different groups of figures. The Applicant submits that claims 8, 9, 18 and 22—25 are associated with the method expressed by Figs. 4, 5A and 5B and associated passages of text in the specification.

Accordingly, the Applicant elects Claims 8, 9, 18 and 22—25.

Examiner Interview

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for taking time to discuss the restriction and the merits of several aspects of the claims.

The Examiner and the Applicant's attorney agreed that the Applicant would amend Claim 8 to recite a method of supporting the fuel cell stack on a rigid current collector mounted on an inside surface of a wall defining a chamber within the fuel cell. Also, as the Applicant understands the agreement, the Applicant was

1 to elect claims that were related and/or contained a common thread or theme, to
2 thereby expedite examination of the application.

3 No agreement was made on the allowability of the amended claims, and the
4 Examiner suggested that the elements would be searched and the claims examined.

5 **Relationship of the Non-Withdrawn Claims**

6 Claims 8, 9, 18 and 22—25 are related to a method that includes, *inter alia*,
7 mounting the fuel cell stack on the inside wall of a fuel cell chamber. Claim 8 has
8 been amended (in a manner believed to be consistent with Claim 15 (now
9 cancelled) and the Examiner Interview) to recite “mounting the fuel cell stack
10 within an enclosure defining a chamber of a fuel cell, wherein a connection
11 between an inside surface of the enclosure and the first current collector layer
12 physically supports the fuel cell stack within the chamber”. Accordingly, Claim 8
13 has been amended to recite a current collector suited for physically supporting
14 parts of a fuel cell stack, depositing such parts, and mounting the current collector
15 on an inside surface of the enclosure.

16 Claim 9 was elected because it recites a first current collector made of a
17 material suited to support the fuel cell stack, and is therefore closely related to the
18 concept of a fuel cell stack supported by a current collector. (Note, the title of the
19 invention also relates to a supporting current collector.) Accordingly, Claim 9 was
20 not withdrawn.

21 Claims 18 and 22—25 similarly recite refinements on the step of mounting
22 the fuel cell stack, wherein the materials used for the current collector, and/or their
23 thicknesses, are refined.
24
25

Discussion of Claim 8 and the Prior Art of Record

Claim 8 recites, "mounting the fuel cell stack within an enclosure defining a chamber of a fuel cell, wherein a connection between an inside surface of the enclosure and the first current collector layer physically supports the fuel cell stack within the chamber". The Applicant respectfully submits that such a method is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record. As discussed in the Examiner Interview, the Applicant anticipates that the Examiner will search this aspect, and examine the claims in view of that search.

Conclusion

The Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowability be issued. The Applicant would welcome a telephone discussion of the claims and the art, to resolve the allowability of any claims.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 12 Feb 2008

By: 

David S. Thompson
Reg. No. 37,954
Attorney for Applicant

LEE & HAYES, PLLC
Suite 500
421 W. Riverside Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99201

Telephone: 509-324-9256 x235
Facsimile: (509) 323-8979